

Executive Mayor's Foreword:



Cllr: Mahole Simon Mofokeng

The season of planning and review of Integrated Development Plan in local government is upon us, where all the stakeholders including communities and organized formations are expected to register their respective interest and footprint on the future plans and developments of the Sedibeng District Municipality for the coming financial year.

The five (5) year Integrated Development Plan that we adopted in 2012, which effectively marked the beginning of new term of office for the current leadership in Local Government has in effect, given a clear political direction of our medium term objectives. This process therefore forms the first review of those plans that we have collectively determined the terms and conditions of our social contract together with you as our stakeholders, principals and partners.

To this end, this social contract was arrived at through various platforms in which you have made submissions.

This Integrated Development Plan review could not come at the most opportune time. This is made so in the light of the policy certainty and direction which come into effect and established through the adoption of the National Development Plan.

To give practical expression to the policy direction of the National Development Plan, as well as other National Priorities, the Sedibeng District Municipality through its Integrated Development Plan, has placed itself at the centre of interaction with the stakeholders. This is done through various engagements and public participation platforms we have developed to obtain and ascertain community interests as well as their priorities.

During the period of public participation, communities, stakeholders and our partners were called upon to make necessary inputs which are geared towards making sure that the Integrated Development Plans are aligned to our collective aspirations and priorities with an objective of confronting the on-going challenges predicated on the triple axis of poverty, unemployment and inequalities.

All the efforts and foundation that we laid in the past years are beginning confirm the correctness of our policies, strategies and plans given the current strong and sustainable investment in the regional economy, as well as judging by the level of expansions, investment and development in the region by both Government and private sector and the consequent impact on the quality of life and economic growth in the region.

The period under review, has been characterized by positive investment mood on one hand and the progressive decline in other social, environmental and economic variables which have been constraining

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our developments. We have indeed turned the tides and making quantum leap in Re-inventing our local Economy with about R1 billion investment made by BHP Billiton Metalloy in the M14 furnace recently opened in our region at Samancor. The technology embedded in this development will increase capacity for local beneficiation and contribute to cleaner air quality from the production line.

We have further received an investment of R380 million with the expansion of DCD Ringroller at its local plant situated at DCD Heavy Engineering which will increase the production capacity to meet both its domestic and international demand .On the other hand we are working with Arcelor Mittal, after fire burnt down one of the furnace, to mitigate both permanent and temporary layoffs, thus ensuring the continuation and job security and production to meet the market demand.

The region has seen lot of investment in other key areas of local economy such as the ever growing retail sector, growing agricultural production through mechanization programme, construction and property development.

In the past local communities of Emfuleni, Midvaal and Lesedi have raised concerns about too many 'governments' at local level and duplication created by two tier local government system and we have duly responded. We have concluded an intensive consultation and public participation programme with our communities regarding the creation of single tier system of local governance in Sedibeng and so far all the legal processes have been followed and complied with.

Flowing from these engagements and submissions, it will be in the best interest of the communities that governance is consolidated into a single tier in Sedibeng region so that duplication, wastage, confusion and conflicting roles can be effectively eliminated and accountability as well as stability is achieved.

The process is with the Municipal Demarcation Board now and it is anticipated that by the first quarter of the financial year 2013/14, a determination will be made in this regard and from our point of view, single tier is the most logical solution to the governance model that is not efficient and effective, learning from the practice in the last 16 years.

With all hands on deck, we are best placed to improve quality of life of our communities, working towards positioning Sedibeng as a SMART CITY built around eGovernance model. Already basic and minimum Information and Communication Technology infrastructure is in place through sizable investment made in the optic fibre. In the coming financial year, we are committing to work towards the development of Regional Economic Framework to realize our socio economic priorities and work towards increasing investment confidence into our region.

Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and Cooperatives remain the epicenter of our focus and development through heightening capacity building and access to other opportunity available in other spheres of Government and private sector to support SMMEs, Cooperatives and Emerging farmers.

In partnership with the National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform we are developing an extra feasibility studies at four (4) Precincts and those feasibilities will be building on the successful work that we have achieved with the Neighbourhood Development Partnership Grant in this regard.



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The Sebokeng Cultural Precinct will be kick started in the next financial year and this is one precinct that will restore original urban business and commercial centre which will integrate Saul Tsotetsi Sport Centre with business/commercial centre to create ambience for further investment and growth in that township.

In the short term critical challenge of youth unemployment that has been highlighted by both the National Development Plan and the Census 2011 results, will be receiving serious attention and in the short term we will be increasing intake in the Community Works Programme and Expanded Public Works Programme targeting poverty stricken Wards across the Sedibeng region.

During the period under review, Sedibeng District Municipality will host a Sedibeng Regional Jobs Summit whose focus will be to finding sustainable solutions together with local industries to the ever present challenges of unemployment in general but more specifically to youth unemployment in the medium to long term.

Working with our partners in National Youth Development Agency, Sedibeng District Municipality has recruited no less than 135 Learnership that have been placed within the municipality and other Non Governmental Organizations to provide experiential training and on-the-job- training to increase job opportunities for young people in the region.

The outcomes of the successful Heritage Summit held by the Sedibeng District Municipality will see the establishment of the Regional Heritage Council in Sedibeng to drive and promote our heritage offerings and to build social cohesion and community reparation through geographic name change programme.

The reintegration of our region is going to occupy centre stage in the coming financial year with expansion of R82 corridor for multipurpose business, residential and mobility use while at the same time explore the means to sustain our investment in the optic fibre project to improve connectivity in the region.

In our effort to improve quality of life in the region, Sedibeng District Municipality will be working to improve its capacity around development of municipal By-laws to enforce air quality standards to revive the environment as we assume full responsibility in the execution our responsibility as a licensing authority.

I call on all and sundry, to take the time out and have a go at this Sedibeng Integrated Development Plan. In doing so, we will arrive at our envisaged future as one, walking hand in hand in seamless service of our communities.

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